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=STATUS OF UN INVESTIGATION OF CW USE

In 1980 the UN General Assembly authorized the UN Secretary General to establish a group of experts to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons. The group, made up of experts from Egypt, Kenya, the Philippines and Peru has looked at reported use of chemical agents in Afghanistan, Laos, and Kampuchea. The group has reached no firm conclusions on the basis of evidence submitted thus far but has indicated the need for on-site inspections. In order to have sufficient time to consider new U.S. evidence and to conduct on-site inspections the group will have to have its mandate renewed during the current session of the General Assembly. The Soviet Union is likely to fight hard in the General Assembly to prevent renewal of the expert group's mandate and to use its influence in the UN Secretariate to insure that the experts final report remains inconclusive.

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